

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

PC-10 A-01 OPR-02 SY-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SCCT-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 NIC-01 /162 W

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P 291524Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8270

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA HAS RELATIVELY QUIET DAY

REFS: (A) ADDIS 3467; (B) ASMARA 206; (C) ASMARA 208

1. TO THIS WRITING, ETHIOPIA HAS HAD RELATIVELY QUIET DAY.
2. EVENING MARCH 28 "NORTHERN ARMY POLICE COMMANDOS AND NAVY" BROADCAST STATEMENT OVER ASMARA RADIO. STATEMENT SAID THAT THEY HAD "CAPTURED TRAITORS TO ETHIOPIA" WHO WERE "CORRUPTED BY MONEY FROM FOREIGN ELEMENTS" WHICH SOUGHT THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION PARA 3 REF C. ITS TONE SUGGESTS THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AIR FORCE RADICALS AND OTHER MILITARY MODERATES MAY BE DEEPENING.
3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM GOOD SOURCE THAT PEOPLE OF JIMA HAVE LOCKED THEIR POLICE IN OWN JAIL AND ARE STILL DEMANDING GOVERNOR

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BE REMOVED (CF PARA 7 REF A). WE HAVE JUST HEARD THAT PRIMIN

ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN, ACCOMPANIED BY CONTINGENT OF TROOPS, HAS GONE TO JIMA TO TRY CALM SITUATION THERE. HE IS SAID TO BE IN JIMA, WHILE ACCOMPANYING TROOPS ARE OUTSIDE AND THERE CONSIDERABLE FEELING IN TOWN AGAINST SOLDIERS. COMMENT: PRESENCE OF PRIMIN TESTIFIES TO SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION. END COMMENT.

4. RURAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR REMOVAL ALLEGEDLY CORRUPT PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS STILL SPREADING; WE HAVE HEARD THAT TWO OF THEM OCCURRED YESTERDAY, ONE IN METTU ILLUBABOR AND ONE IN ARBA MINCH. SECONDARY SCHOOLS REMAIN OUT IN HARRAR.

5. STRIKES CONTINUE: CAA WALKOUT SITUATION UNCHANGED (CF ADDIS 3449). LOWER HOUSE PARLIAMENT CONSIDERED SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON CAA STRIKERS' GRIEVANCES. IT REPORTEDLY VOTED APPROVAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THREE SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR, BE FIRED. PARLIAMENT SAID HAVE INFORMED PRIMIN OF FOREGOING AND URGED IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION. MUNICIPAL WORKERS ALSO REMAIN OUT; WE ESTIMATE 4 TO 5 THOUSAND STRIKING. LABATT HEARS MOST BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES THIS STRIKE ALREADY SETTLED, BUT STRIKERS NOW SAID WANT ADDIS MAYOR FIRED. SALARY INCREMENT APPROVED MARCH 28 BY EMPEROR FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES EARNING LESS THAN ETH\$153 MONTHLY MAY HELP SETTLEMENT. REPORTEDLY, TWO THOUSAND ADOLA GOLDMINE WORKERS ALSO ON STRIKE (SIDAMO). THEY WANT MORE MONEY.

6. DEBRE ZEIT SITUATION APPEARS UNCHANGED. MOD HAS SPENT BETTER PART OF DAY TRYING DEAL WITH PROBLEM THERE. MANY AIR FORCE MEN REMAIN IN ADDIS.

7. MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WAS ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT. DETAILS BY SEPTTEL. OUR INITIAL VERY TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT GROUP WILL BE HARD ENOUGH TO CHARACTERIZE SO THAT NEITHER ITS PROSPECTIVE TARGETS NOR GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS WILL FIND IT EASY TO OBJECT TO IT BEFORE IT GETS DOWN TO WORK.

8. CONGEN REPORTS ASMARA GENERALLY QUIET.
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